



caring about you & your environment

Report 01.189

03 April 2001

File: X/23/5/8

Report 2001.EnV01.189.TP.sw

Report to the Environment Committee
from Tim Porteous, Biodiversity Co-ordinator

Waiwhetu Stream Action Plan

1. Purpose

- a) To present to the Committee the Waiwhetu Stream Action Plan which has now been finalised by the Waiwhetu Stream Working Group following public submissions;
- b) To recommend that the Council consider adopting the Waiwhetu Stream Action Plan; and
- c) To inform the Committee on implementation projects to be undertaken this financial year.

2. Background

Against a background of longstanding concern about the deteriorated state of the Waiwhetu Stream, a hui was held at Waiwhetu Marae in March 2000 to discuss ways in which the stream could be better managed. The hui was attended by a large number of people from a wide range of organisations including Wellington Regional Council, Hutt City Council, Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o te Ika a Maui, Wellington Tenth Trust, the Royal Forest and Bird Protection Society, along with local residents and business people.

The primary outcome of the hui was a decision to set up a small working group to develop a vision statement and an action plan for the stream. This Council undertook to set up and lead the working group. The working group's membership is:

Lorna Sandeman, Chairperson, local resident

Teri Puketapu, Te Runanganui o Taranaki Whanui ki te Upoko o te Ika a Maui

Liz Mellish, Wellington Tenth Trust

Doug Sheppard, Geochemist
Bob McGrath, Lecturer, Massey University
Les Roberts, Industrial Research Ltd
John Pepper, Inspections and Enforcement Division, Hutt City Council
Judy Robb, Leisure Services Dept., Hutt City Council
Steve Murphy, Flood Protection, Wellington Regional Council
Tim Porteous, Wellington Regional Council.

3. **Action Plan**

The Working Group formulated a draft action plan in the period from July to October 2000. On 2 November the draft was launched at the Te Whiti Park Recreation Centre and submissions invited. The availability of the plan was also advertised in the Hutt News and Evening Post. A total of 36 copies of the plan were sent out in response to requests. A further 12 were sent out to various statutory and regulatory agencies.

A total of 12 submissions were received on the plan, all supportive of the vision, objectives and the suggested actions. Some minor strengthening of sections relating to public health were made as a result of the supportive submission from Hutt Valley Regional Public Health. Despite this relatively low level of response to the action plan, the Waiwhetu Stream Working Group believes it has clear support for the plan and it is now in a position to present the action plan to the Wellington Regional Council and Hutt City Council and ask that the Councils adopt and implement the action plan. The adoption by the Council of the Waiwhetu Stream Action Plan will be a tangible indication of the Council's continuing commitment to restoring the *mauri* of the Waiwhetu Stream.

4. **Implementation of the Action Plan**

The Council allocated funding to this project in its Long Term Financial Strategy. To advance the objectives of the action plan the following projects are to be undertaken (or commence) this financial year: Expenditure proposals for subsequent years will be reported to the Committee in due course.

i) Contaminated Sediments

One of the more significant issues associated with the Waiwhetu Stream is the legacy of contaminated sediments in the lower reaches. Little is known about the extent or nature of this contamination nor the options for remedial action. As a first step it is proposed to undertake core sampling from the streambed and have these cores analysed. \$10,000 has been allocated to this project in this financial year. It is acknowledged that this will only allow for a very limited amount of sampling but it is hoped that the evidence gained will enable funds to be leveraged from external contestable sources such as the newly established "Orphaned Contaminated Sites" fund administered by the Ministry for the Environment.

ii) Landscape Development Plan

The stream corridor is an important landscape amenity in the eastern Hutt Valley. A landscape development plan, jointly funded with Hutt City Council, is to be commissioned for the entire stream corridor from its source in the hills above Taita cemetery through to the confluence with the Hutt River at Seaview. The plan will provide guidance on matters such as:

- broad vegetation patterns;
- sites suitable for enhancement with riparian planting;
- identification of sites with potential for wetland development as a method of pre-treatment of stormwater before discharge into the stream;
- walk/cycleway opportunities etc; and
- restoration of in-stream and stream corridor biodiversity

\$8,000 has been allocated for this project.

iii) Signs

The Working Group believes that informing the public of the various actions underway to improve the quality of the Waiwhetu Stream is important in raising awareness of the issues and engendering support. To this end, it is proposed to erect signs at two well used sites within the stream corridor to inform the public of these actions and ways in which they can help. Hutt City Council is funding this project.

5. **Communications**

Every opportunity will be taken to publicise the implementation of the action plan as projects are commenced. The first example will be the “photo opportunity” provided by the extraction of core samples from the streambed.

6. **Recommendation**

That the Waiwhetu Stream Action Plan be adopted by the Council.

Report prepared by:

Approved for Submission by:

TIM PORTEOUS
Biodiversity Co-ordinator, Resource Policy

GEOFF SKENE
Manager, Environment Co-ordination

JANE BRADBURY
Divisional Manager, Environment

Attachment: Waiwhetu Stream Action Plan